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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

14 JUN 1978

NFAC # 2413-18



MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: PRC(I) Priorities

As you requested in your memo of 1 May, we have reviewed your revised PRC(I) priorities lists. I believe we are gradually improving the lists, but I still have significant concerns with them.

Several of my specific changes were not included. In the long-term list, the most critical of those were: NATO commitments, advanced countries' military policy issues, Soviet foreign intentions and military projections, and the global effect of U.S. military aid. Those that were most significant, yet missing in the current list, include Soviet weapons development purposes, the Soviet concept and expectations for a "win" in a nuclear exchange, and the Soviet strategy in Africa. It seems to me that each of these items is of a very high priority in national terms, not only from a military point of view.

As promulgated, your latest PRC(I) lists indicate significant shifts in priorities, downward for military and upward for both political and economic. If taken on balance and applied to NFIP resources, the net effect would appear to be an eventual net loss in DOD's return on intelligence investment. Although I recognize that a very significant amount of NFIP goes toward the satisfaction of Defense requirements, the Department of Defense is still left with key and critical needs unfulfilled.

While I fully recognize the need for political and economic intelligence, most significant problems which have occurred over the past twenty years have been in substantial part military. The President and the Secretary of State, as well as myself, must be highly aware of the threat we face from the Communist Bloc and its worldwide military initiatives. I do not think it is the intent of the PRC(I), the NSC or the President to reduce significantly or alter the support provided by the NFIP for Defense requirements. In that light, I would strenuously object to significant shifts in resources away from intelligence needs critical to Defense, should that result from constrained resources and altered priorities.

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The enclosure contains my detailed recommendations for changes to the lists. The Chairman, JCS supports my changes. Finally, I believe it would be appropriate for the eventual final list approved by the PRC(I) to be issued by that body.

Harold Brown

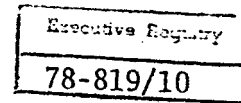
Enclosure

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NEAC # 1998-78

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON



May 15, 1978

Dear Stan:

I am pleased to concur in the final version of the Intelligence Priorities lists and in their release to the Intelligence Community as PRC(I) guidance.

I think you are to be congratulated on your leadership throughout this entire project. I know you agree that in a more important sense it represents an on-going process that has only begun. If the good work done so far is to result in better intelligence collection and analysis, the topics and priorities set out in the two lists must be continuously updated and refined to reflect the precise questions of the day. I am glad to see, therefore, that you are providing for periodic reviews. I intend to lend my support to this process and encourage the kind of interaction between the policy makers and Intelligence Community that will make it successful.

Sincerely,



Admiral Stansfield Turner, U.S.N.,
Director,
Central Intelligence Agency.